

Message Text

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40

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /086 W

----- 116185

R 051200 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6348

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJ: SHANAAN TRIAL - MIDWAY REPORT

REF: KHARTOUM 612

1. PROSECUTION COMPLETED ITS CASE AGAINST BRIG. SHANAAN AND EIGHT CO- DEFENDANTS ON WEDNESDAY, APR 4 AND DEFENSE IS DUE BEGIN ITS PRESENTATION ON SATURDAY. TO DATE TRIAL HAS LIVED UP TO ITS ADVANCE BILLING: DULL AND MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. ONLY ONE PROSECUTION WITNESS TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD ACTUALLY HEARD ANY OF DEFENDANTS PLOTTING AND EVEN HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY ROLES WHICH SOME OF ACCUSED WERE TO PLAY IN AFFAIR. ONLY OTHER 'DIRECT' WITNESS WAS NCO IN ARMY SECURITY WHO PRESENTED TAPE RECORDINGS MADE OF TWO OF PLOTTERS' MEETINGS. THERE WAS SOME DEBATE OVER WHETHER TAPES SHOULD BE HEARD. DECISION TAKEN TO PLAY THEM, BUT QUALITY WAS REPORTEDLY QUITE POOR AND COURT STILL CONSIDERING WHETHER ACCEPT THEM AS EVIDENCE. OTHER NINE WITNESSES WERE EITHER INVESTIGATORS OR PRESENTING HEARSAY EVIDENCE AS TO WHAT SINGLE ACTUAL WITNESS REPORTED TO HAVE HEARD.

2. SPECIFICS OF ALLEGED PLOT AS PRESENTED BY PROSECUTION EXTREMELY THIN. REPORTEDLY AIM WAS TO SET UP ISLAMIC STATE WITH PLOTTERS APPARENTLY LOOKING TO BOTH ANSAR HEAD, SADIK AL- MAHDI AND KHATMIYYA LEADER, MUHAMMAD OSMAN AL- MIRGANI FOR SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT IN NEW REGIME. SOME OF WITNESSES EVEN

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INDICATED LATTER HAD ENCOURAGED PLOTTERS IN PLANNING STAGES.
AHMED KHAIR' S SPEECH AT KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY (KHARTOUM 1685,
DEC 72) WAS LIKEWISE CITED BY ONE WITNESS AS PART OF PLOT.
PROSECUTION OBVIOUSLY DID NOT TAKE THESE REPORTS VERY SERIOUSLY,
HOWEVER, DENYING THAT THERE WAS ANY BASIS FOR BRINGING CHARGES
AGAINST ANY BUT EIGHT ACCUSED. ANY PLOT ITSELF APPEARS TO HAVE
STILL BEEN IN INFANCY STAGES OF PLANNING WITH BOTH
ASSIGNMENTS OF PLOTTERS AND TIMING MOST UNCERTAIN.
FRITTS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KHARTO00727
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730434/aaaahsgy.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KHARTOUM 612
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971202
Subject: SHANAAN TRIAL - MIDWAY REPORT
TAGS: PINS, SU
To: AF
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005